

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05292 311415Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2593

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, PO

SUBJ: STRAINS IN SPANISH/PORTUGUESE BILATERAL
RELATIONS

REF : MADRID 4028

SUMMARY: SIGNS OF TENSION HAVE APPEARED IN SPANISH/
PORTUGUESE BILATERAL RELATIONS. NEW STRAINS IN ECONOMIC
SPHERE ADD TO TENSIONS PREVIOUSLY APPARENT IN MEDIA AND ON
POLITICAL LEVEL. ANTUNES' REPORTED RESIGNATION AS FONMIN,
FOLLOWING SOARES' DEPARTURE FROM GOVT, BOTH OF WHOM WORKED
TO PRESERVE FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS, COULD MAKE IT
MORE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN MUTUALLY OBSERVED POLICY OF
NON-INTERFERENCE. END SUMMARY

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR WEST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS HAS CONFIRMED
TO EMBOFF THAT GOS HAS RECENTLY HAD DIFFICULTIES IN ITS RELATIONS
WITH PORTUGAL. HE CONFIRMED THAT SOME PIDE
OFFICIALS WHO ESCAPED FROM PRISON IN PORTUGAL IN JUNE HAD REACHED
SPAIN. ALTHOUGH SPAIN DID NOT RECOGNIZE POLITICAL ASYLUM AS SUCH,
GOS HAD FOLLOWED PRACTICE OF ALLOWING POLITICAL REFUGEES
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05292 311415Z

TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN SPAIN. SO FAR, HE REPORTED,

THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION FROM LISBON.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, PORTUGUESE EMBASSY HAD ASKED MFA TO PREVENT PUBLIC CEREMONY ON OCCASION OF PUBLICATION OF BOOK ATTACKING MFA BY EXILE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEADER, MAJOR SANCHEZ OSORIO. BOOK, "THE FRAUD OF THE 25TH OF APRIL" (EL ENGANO DEL 25 DE ABRIL) WAS RELEASED IN MADRID JULY 15 IN INFORMAL CEREMONY AT MADRID RESTAURANT. OSORIO GAVE FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO PRESS QUESTIONS: "I COULD NOT HAVE PUBLISHED THIS BOOK IN PORTUGAL BECAUSE THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION THERE. MY BOOK IS A MEANS OF STRUGGLE." OSORIO SAID THAT HE HAD COME TO SPAIN AS A "TOURIST" AND HAD NO FIXED RESIDENCE IN ANY COUNTRY. HE DESCRIBED VASCO GONCALVES AS A COMMUNIST.

3. GOS PROTESTED JULY 24 TO PORTUGUESE MFA IN LISBON THE HOLDING OF SIXTH CONGRESS OF SOCIALIST YOUTH OF SPAIN THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND AND AGAINST THE PUBLICATION IN OPORTO OF A MANIFESTO ISSUED BY A GALICIAN SEPARATIST ORGANIZATION (UNION DO POVO GALLEGO). MFA DIRECTOR TOLD EMBOFF THAT THIS WAS NOT FIRST TIME IN WHICH PRESENT PORTUGUESE GOVT HAD INTERFERED IN INTERNAL SPANISH AFFAIRS BY ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF GALICIAN AUTONOMY.

4. MFA HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY PORTUGUESE RADIO BROADCASTS. "RADIO CLUB PORTUGUES" BROADCAST TEN DAYS AGO MANIFESTO OF RECENTLY CREATED PLATFORM OF DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE. IT ALLEGED THAT MERCENARIES DESTINED TO INTERVENE IN PORTUGAL WERE BEING HELD IN RESERVE IN SPAIN AND THAT SPINOLA HAD BEEN IN MADRID AND HAD HELD MEETING WITH MAJOR ALPOIN CALVAO, REPORTEDLY A LEADER OF MARCH 11 COUP IN PORTUGAL. EMBASSY NOTES THAT SPANISH TV, WHICH CAN APPARENTLY BE RECEIVED IN LARGE PART OF PORTUGAL, DESCRIBED NEW LEADERSHIP OF PORTUGAL AS "COMMUNIST TROIKA" IN REGULAR TELECAST JULY 26.

5. FIRST MEETING OF MIXED SPANISH/PORTUGUESE COMMISSION WAS HELD IN LISBON JULY 24-25. DIRGEN OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BASSOLS, WHO LED SPANISH DELEGATION, TOLD PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MADRID 05292 311415Z

ON HIS RETURN THAT INITIATIVE FOR MEETING STEMMED FROM VISIT BY PORTUGUESE FOMIN ANTUNES TO MADRID (REFTEL). BASSOLS REPORTED THAT PORTUGUESE HAD ASKED FOR BALANCING OF BILATERAL TRADE; CURRENT ANNUAL DEFICIT OF PORTUGAL WAS APPROX \$150 MILLION. BASSOLS TOLD PORTUGUESE THAT PORTUGUESE DEFICIT WAS COMPENSATED BY SPANISH TOURISM TO PORTUGAL. TWO SIDES ALSO DISCUSSED SITUATION OF SPANISH FIRMS. (MFA DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

TOLD EMBOFF THAT SPANISH FIRMS HAVE ENCOUNTERED INCREASING
DIFFICULTIES IN PORTUGAL AS
CONSEQUENCE OF GOVT INTERVENTION AND LABOR TURMOIL.)

6. COMMENT: GOS AND GOP HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL
SINCE APRIL 1975, PARTICULARLY UNDER FONMIN SOARES AND
ANTUNES, IN MAINTAINING FRIENDLY RELATIONS DESPITE STRAINS
STEMMING FROM RAPIDLY CHANGING INTERNAL CONDITIONS IN
PORTUGAL. RESIGNATION OF ANTUNES AND HIS EVENTUAL
REPLACEMENT BY A PERSONALITY LESS FAMILIAR WITH SPAIN
(SOARES HAD LIVED IN SPAIN WHILE WORKING ON GENERAL
DELGADO CASE) OR WITH A MORE LEFTIST ORIENTATION WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN DEGREE OF
FRIENDLINESS OBSERVED HERETOFORE. DESPITE PORTUGUESE
EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN FLOW OF SPANISH TOURISM, THERE HAS
BEEN A SHARP DECLINE. LOCAL MEDIA AND VISITORS TO
PORTUGAL HAVE REPORTED DETERIORATING CONDITIONS,
UNFRIENDLINESS TO SPANISH "FASCISTS", AND EVEN ACTS OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST SPANISH VEHICLES. GOP HAS APPARENTLY
REACTED BY PRESSING GOS TO SEEK OTHER WAYS TO BALANCE
TRADE.
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